

MORTY FITZROY

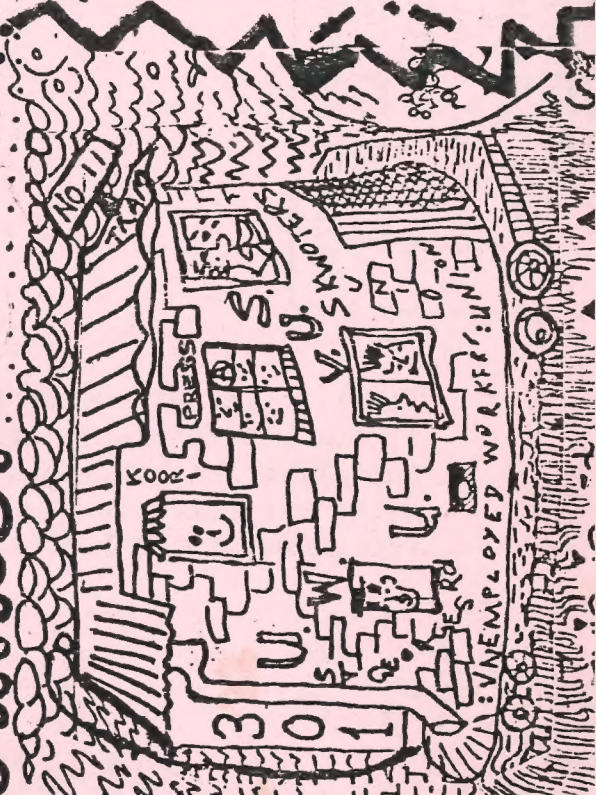
OLD FITZROY FIRESTATION

NEW PW. NO. 481 8097

Squat it

FEBRUARY 87

no. 6



NO HOME?
TRY

SQUATTING.





THE COMMON MISCONCEPTION
IS THAT THE ROYAL FAMILY
ARE NOT POLITICAL. THINK
ABOUT THIS: IF YOU WERE
THAT STINKING RICH WHO'S
SIDE WOULD YOU BE ON?

Squat it is put out by the Squatters Union of
Victoria(Melbourne)..it is open to all non-
sexist/racist etc views of squatters and the
views expressed in Squat it are not necessarily
the views of the SUV.....

Thanks to
Boligan Press for
extracts from ideal
home.

Send us your articles and a dollar to keep this
amazing little rag humming of the presses...
...OR ELSE...you'll be drugged and kidnapped..
...you didn't think squatters did such things?..
...Read the Herald and find out the truth ...

CONTRIBUTE



NOW!!

PRINCES PIER COMMUNITY CAFE SPACE...

[We're still thinking of a name-bring a suggestion along on opening night]

The cafe will open every Thursday night from the 19th of February...
The doors will open at 6pm with a communal vegetarian meal around 7pm and then a open time for poetry and other things(eg music(acoustic) and street theatre). Bring something to share...to keep the cafe going money wise we need a donation of \$1 per person if your'e eating and less if you're not...please don't bring any alcohol because the cafe 'organizers'can be dragged though the courts. If you or a group of friends want to run a night come along and have a chat to the thursday night collective-there's stacks of time to fill in....

DON'T LET CAFES ROT
SQUAT...



On the first day of International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, squatters occupied a disused cafe opposite Princes Pier, Port Melbourne. The cafe is privately owned with an expired government lease for the land and had been empty for 6 months when it was squatted-there are no plans for the cafe until it's demolished as part of the Station Pier Redevelopment plan. We, the squatters plan to turn the cafe into a community space for groups to use...so if you or a group that you're in need space for:

- meetings
- workspace(for painting banners etc)
- benefits
- film nights
- performance space
- band rehearsals
- or anything else...
- There's seating space for 40+ people and standing space for more.
- Cost-basically free, except for small donations for power etc.
- There is a toilet and access to cooking facilities.
- Women's/Mens only space is OK though the people who live at the cafe still need access to the kitchen..

Call 4818097 on ~~weekdays~~ for more info.....

OPENING NIGHT 19TH OF FEBUARY..

To get there:take the the 201 or 202 bus from Flinders St.to stop 24 to Princes pier(the pier after Station pier)

It's the beginning of '87 and the start of yet another governmental farce.

Last year it was International Year of Peace with the highlight being the visit of Pope John Paul, a man who heads the religion that has sanctioned the slaughter, thru war, of millions of the worlds people.

This year??, well it's International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, or more accurately,.....talking about shelter for the homeless.

The pathetic allocation of \$600,000 (most of it spent on publicity) for assistance for the homeless compared with the \$1 billion+ used to build the new parliament house shows how concerned the govt. really is about the plight of the homeless.

So far they have done numerous surveys about poverty and homelessness and written reports and published articles.

We don't need anymore statistics, anymore surveys or anymore prying into our lives. What we NEED is homes!!!

The govt. has no intention of providing this basic right, for reasons of their own, the least not being- social control. All they have, and ever will do, is pay lip service to the needy to TRY and keep us fooled.

They tell us that WE are responsible for our own poverty yet, in the same breath, tell us that 'full employment' now really means 8% unemployment.

They twist statistics and lie in our faces to serve their own ends and their biggest lie is the so called 'housing crisis', an extremely successful form of social repression, able to be rationalised and justified through their economic lies and made up statistics.



It is time to fight this covert form of oppression. It's not true there is no housing, 100's of houses lay empty, rotting for the sake of greed and speculation or through the gross inefficiency of the controlling beauracrats. Their greed and slackness causes our poverty and discomfort. Now in the year of IYSH it is time to take a stand and say NO!!

NO to more will we endure their lies and social abuse. NO! to the speculators and profiteers who control our needs.

Housing should be controlled by the people themselves. Utilisation of all available space for living, to stop homelessness, is the only acceptable course.

Squatting is a great step towards a time when homelessness will be a distant memory and all people will have a secure comfortable home.



DON'T let IYSH become another govt. jelly-bean. We CAN make it come true, we CAN get the housing we all so desperately need. All we need do is organise!

The squatters movement lacks unity and strength. We are restricted by unavailability of transport, lack of funds, and worst of all people willing to squat and organise to stop threatened evictions.

Due to our lack of mobility, and of people, the squatters organisation is usually unable to be of any assistance during an instant eviction and can only do follow up work thru publicity and harrassment of relevant authorities. ie. police, MOH, RCA etc.

A way around this is decentralisation of the squatters movement which would involve the setting up of localised squatters support groups rather than the centralised squatters union.

These groups could organise their own support networks, telephone trees, resistance groups etc.

Squatting is the best way of solving your housing problem. No waiting lists, no beauracrats and no more transparent lies. By squatting you not only solve your immediate crisis, but also make a statement to the powers that be that you no longer believe their lies and demand adequate, secure housing NOW!

BUT, while we remain isolated from each other the powermongers will be able to pick us off squat by squat. Eviction cannot be successfully resisted on your own but it CAN be successfully resisted. We need unity amongst ourselves thru which will come our strength.

ORGANISE and take positive action, squat, and/or come into the SUV at 301 St. Georges Road North Fitzroy or ring 4818097 for any information or advice you may need.

ORGANISE!!! AND FIGHT BACK!!!!

THE JAPANESE ELEPHANT

I see you quietly cackling
With the weakly-subtle humour
Of sarcasm,
Shot at my body's
Idiosyncrasy;
Me,
The Japanese elephant,
Who normally talks
And normally walks,
Whose clock
Normally ticks
Normal energy
Abnormally.

Government warns of new dole crackdown

CANBERRA.— Prosecutions for welfare fraud have increased by 50 per cent in the past 18 months, and by more than 86 per cent for schemes involving \$30,000 or more, the Minister for Social Security, Mr Howe, said yesterday.

He said measures announced in the budget would further toughen the social security system against fraud, and cheats would face heavy sentences. The measures include:

- New Zealanders will not be eligible for the dole in their first six months in Australia.

Britons on working-holiday permits will not get the dole.

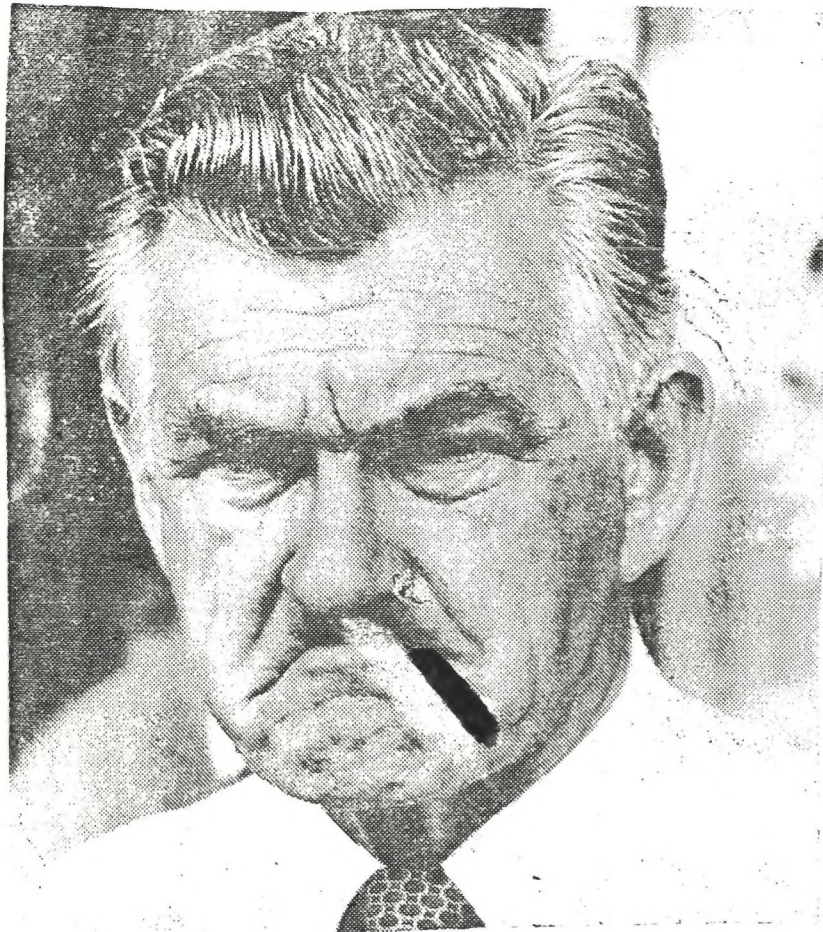
- Changes will be made in the Commonwealth Employment Service to ensure that people on the dole are registered.

- Investigative teams will check people identified by computer as likely dole cheats.

- People who have been on the dole for two years or more will be interviewed to make sure they are still eligible.

- Those on the dole will be required to submit income statements personally every fortnight, instead of by mail.





FAMILY SNAPSHOT: RONNIE'S BROTHER BOB

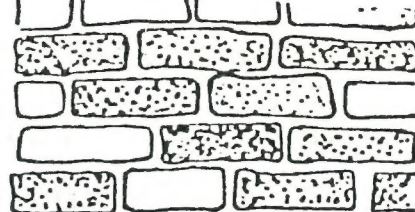
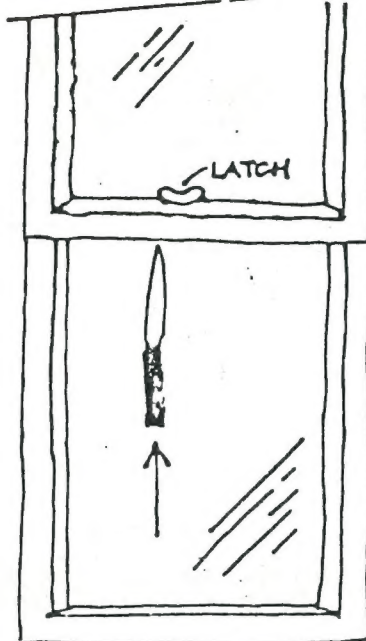
It's a crime to be poor

One myth that the unemployed are confronted with, is that the dole is too high. Being unemployed, in other words knowing what I get each fortnight, and acknowledging what THEY classify as OUR needs. I can say beyond doubt that the wage we get doesn't even satisfy our basic needs. One of the hardships that face unemployed is homelessness.

The private rental market is quite inaccessible for all unemployed. If by luck you can get a house through

the private market, half or more of your meager wage goes into rent. Then you're forced to face other hardships as starvation, living without electricity etc. On the other hand there is public housing that being accessible to dolees, but, and there is a but, you'll probably have to wait 3 to 10 years before they find you a suitable accommodation. In the mean time you can go live where ever, it is not their problem.

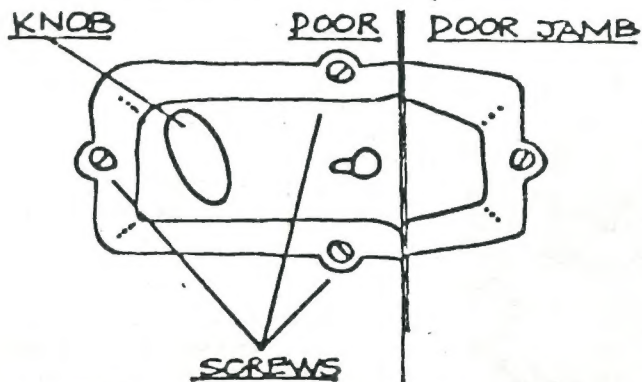
A FEW HELPFUL DIAGRAMS TO GUIDE YOU ON YOUR WAY.



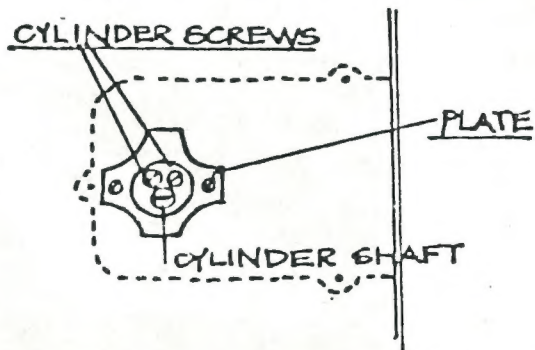
1. PUSH KNIFE BLADE BETWEEN TOP AND BOTTOM WINDOW FRAMES.

2. TWIST BLADE TO TURN LATCH AROUND.

3. SLIDE BOTTOM WINDOW UP AND ENTER!!!



1. REMOVE OUTER SCREWS AND TAKE OFF COVER.....
2. UNSCREW PLATE, TAKE OUT CYLINDER....



3. REPLACE WITH NEW CYLINDER. IF SHAFT IS TOO LONG BREAK IT OFF TO SAME LENGTH AS OLD ONE... AND PRESTO! YOU'RE HOME.

CRACKER TIPS

You should come across a promising spot, and don't
 not doing all that carpentry after kicking/browning the
 front door, here are a couple of handy ways to get through a front door with ease.

Slipping the Yale.

Around the edges of nearly all front doors, you will find strips of beading. This is what stops you from having easy access to the tongue of a Yale lock. However, this beading is only held to the rest of the door by pins. If you take a long, thin screwdriver, you can hammer it between the beading and the rest of the door, and slip the lock.

You can also use a fine bit with a hand drill, and if you are neat enough, no-one will notice a thing. Practice on someones' door first, until you've got the hang of it.

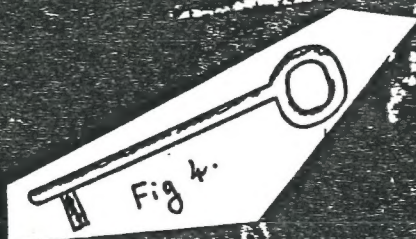
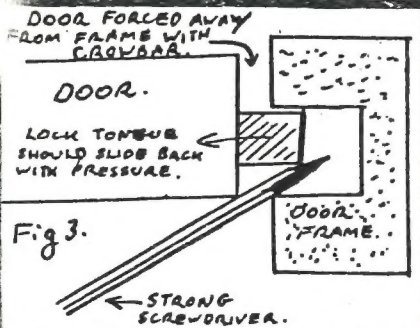
Mortice Locks.

These are a pain in the arse, cos you've usually got to chisel them out of the frame to get through them. The first thing to do is to see if they are locked. To do this, apply firm pressure to the door, over the mortice hole. If the door gives, you can be fairly sure that it isn't locked. If it is, however, here are a couple of things to get through it.

Firstly, you can get a friend to crow the door as far away from the frame as possible. When there is a wide enough gap, slip a long, strong screwdriver around the edge of the mortice lock tongue. You should be able to lever it back. (See fig.3).

The second way is easier, but will only work on about 4 out of ten mortice locks. With this method, you make a simple pick from an old mortice key, using a hacksaw and a file. (See fig. 4). Use a straight key, with no ridges or grooves on it. All you have to do, is to stick it in the lock and use like a normal key until the bolt slides back. This method does not always work, but it is well worth the effort for the times that it does.

Good luck and happy hunting.





STUDENTS !!! PLUG IN. IT'S ALL HAPPENING
SQUATS ARE EVERYWHERE! ON RADIO TOO: 3CR MON. 10:30AM

At 15½-16½
they're
stepping out
in a
magnificent
career



GET-A
JOB!

Your camera takes a shot,
A shot of our loss;
The loss of our comfort,
Yet we build
A practical squalor;
They call it the squalor of homelessness
Which shouldn't even be legal
But we,
Practically struggle
To build a beauty of our own
In your filth.

This poem concerns the orphanage in Clarendon street, South Melbourne; a disused orphanage with room for orphans. It was discovered, back in October, that it was very stupidly, an unused building (3 actually), so it was that members of the poor homeless made their homes there.

Admittedly the place was overrun (incredibly immoral laxity) with junk of various kinds. The squatters have been living among all this decrepitude, but still have found the time and the energy to start to make some sort of change (garden, etc).

Your first Rolls-Royce
is the
standard
God

WAL?
EEL?
YING YOUR
OWN YOUR BACK?

1 2 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
APR 87
No \$1.10 407039
TRAVELCA
1 2 3 4



Laverton Auctions

On the 7th of Feb at the Werribee-Centenary hall at about midday a queue of hopeful homebuyers, their hearts and heads set on bidding into their very own brick and veneer. The crowd drew its numbers from working class people, families, elderly couples, single men and women, lots of pairs of shorts and the regular advance Advance Orstraya T-shirt. To the surprise of a few another crowd had appeared - the S.U.V., the Western Region Housing council [who helped with transport- TA], the orphans of inner Melbourne and a few others. It was 33degrees hot and boiling with tension all around. The media- every TV station on the knob and some press cameras worked hard for space at the entrance. The cameras rolled and a W.H.R.C speaker voiced through the loudspeaker the story of the Laverton houses the M.O.H., THE R.A.A.F., the squatters and the June 19th evictions and on this hot Saturday the auction of 'junk' [quote M.O.H.] before a despondent and bewildered public.

The auction went into play with conditions of sale i.e. CON- ditions [like - paycash in 60 days- or else] !!!! Then the ceremony proceeded for- th without much further ado. About 90 minutes later the 28 surplus home- es were all sold to the gentlemen and ladies in the audience. All of em, the Estate agents Professional [R] of fs] and John Kortez finished up wiping the tables of thousands of dollars into their greedy bulging wallets, money which should not have to be played.

It didn't all go smoothly for them, how we shouted and pleaded, haggled and baggled with land agents and buyers and nearly blew the hall down

with 15 minutes of incessant chair banging- the microphone and p.a. of the auctioneer not loud enough to penetrate thru the caffuffle, as a result many people could not of hear -d the prices as boosted them into

the tens of thousands. Seargents and constables tried to stop the outcry, but without alaw against Squatters and activists turning an auction into a farce- what could they do? The noise continued, no-one was taken away, the divvy and large van parked around the back were left empty, what a burden on the taxpayer!!

A pile of rotten fruit accidentally spilt onto the front entrance?

How 'successful was it then? Some potential buyers walked out disgusted - at either the smelly, half naked demonstrators with no decent job or haircut, or more rightly in disgust at the Con trick of real estate hard sell tactics.

TV news covered the event in full, some news reports not fairly.

Who profits from these sales?

1 The R.A.A.F and 2 The real estate agents 3 Your guess. The public, the people, averages and odds and ends like you and me are obscured by the "Commonwealth" and told the houses are 'surplus' [military surplus] and having to buy back the houses because in the eyes of the dept. of defence they were not up to scratch for R.A.A.F men and families, and in the eyes of the M.O.H the houses are 'junk'.

When the politics of homes and shelter goes not guarded by state forces but is delivered to the hands of the people then we begin to unplug auctions like these and pull the shag pile from under the feet of the smug profiteers.



03.....062

Phone call from P.James of the Squatters Union of Victoria to the Director General of Defence

Housing in Canberra, Colonel Sal Loot.....

SUV, Why are you selling the houses instead of giving them to the public?

COL, We made an agreement with the Finance dept.-in a nutshell, we sell the houses get the money and buy some better ones elsewhere.

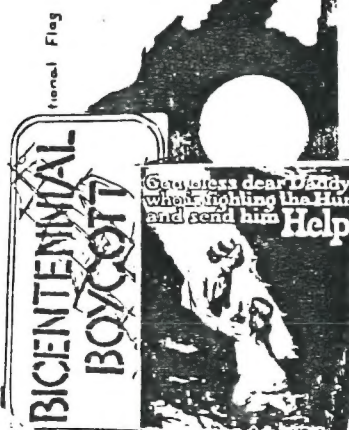
SUV, The RAAF evicted the Laverton squats in a disturbing display of force then the M.O.H left them empty with the promise they would upgrade them for public housing! Why does the Govt. not stick to its promise?

COL, Too costly, houses dirty, not up to cork, we'll get another lot with the funds from the trash we flog in auction.

SUV, Arent you simply adding the profit to an already huge outlay in the Defence budget?

COL, Well we in the RAAF have the people of Australia to thank for keeping our heads high up in the clouds with long service leave, fringe benefit -s, comfy furniture pieces, obedient wife and little johnny to wait on us as we go around exploding things and dropping chemicals every-

SUV, Goodbye- the phone bills get big around here. Do you know how it is with only \$ 600 000 in the IYSH budget..... yh buyby



Womyn's day Womyn's day
every friddy at the S.U.

phone 481 8097



Womyn work in the S.U. office fridays to encourage involvement of womyn in the S.U., and for more womyn to get intouch with us & utilise the resources the S.U. has to offer. Come in, or phone us & have a yak - we're there to encourage, support & share information & skills with any womyn who need it.

See ya there SISTERS

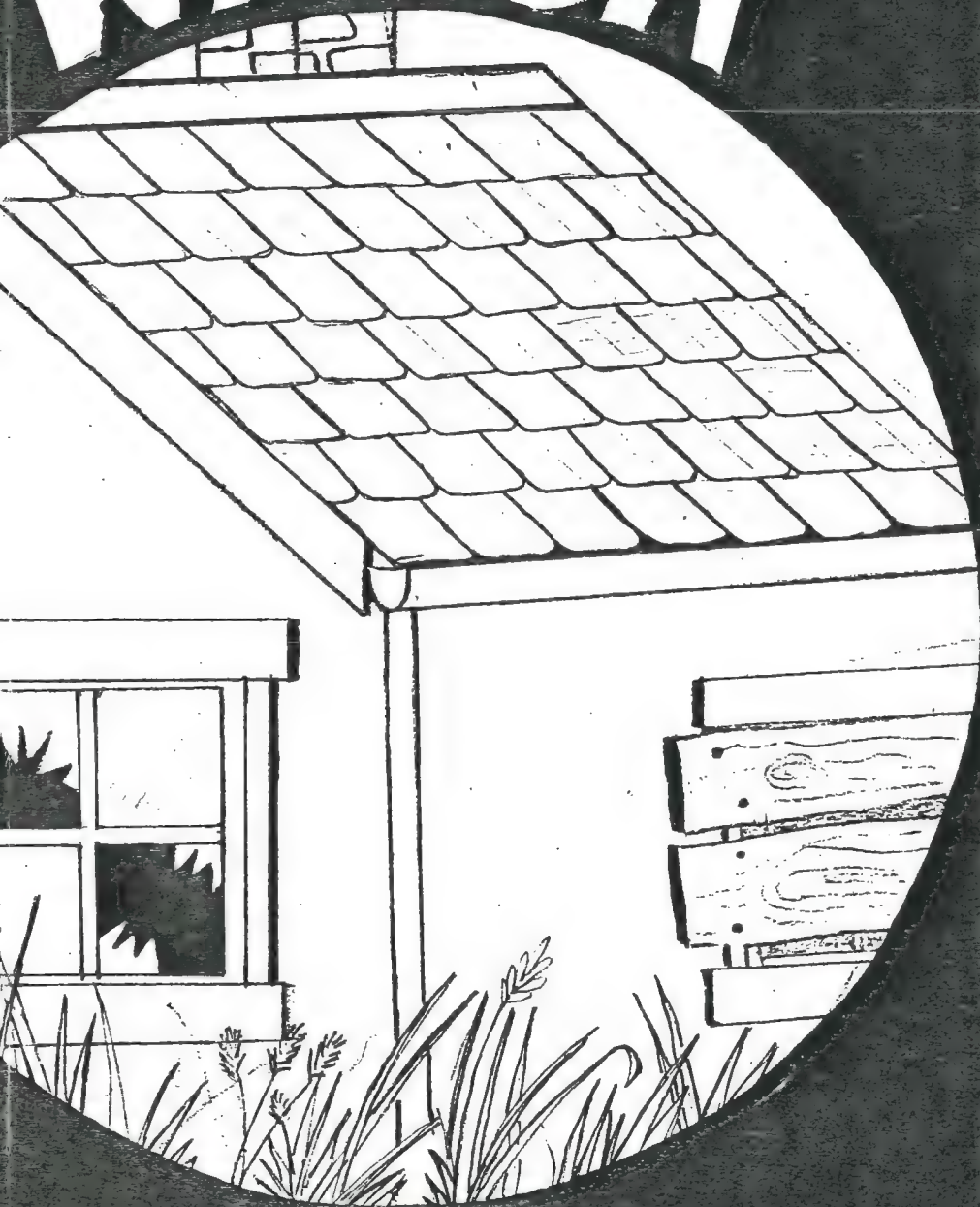


WEED

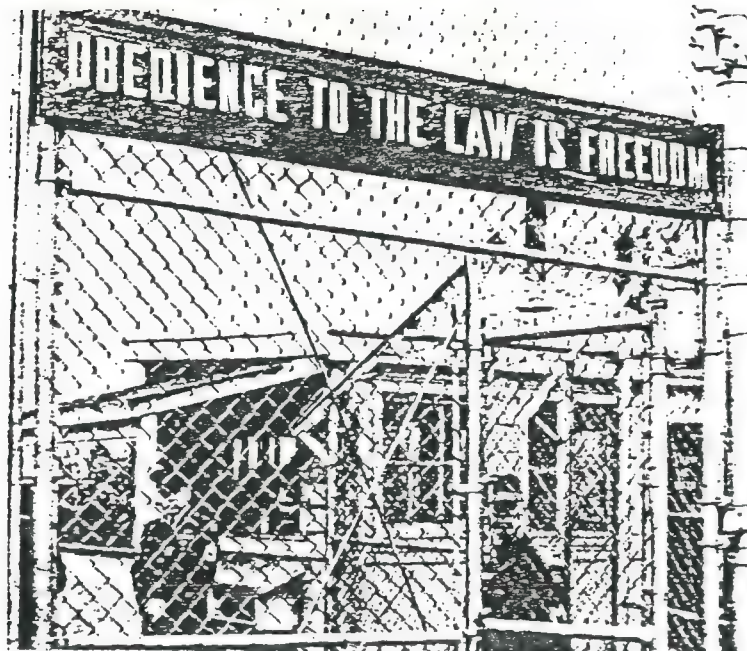


Villians are afoot in our society. Profiteers who exploit the poor, for their own selfish monetary gains. To 'Watch'. All you need do is ring us on 4818097 and regain our right to housing. RING NOW!!!

WATCH



who leave houses empty, at the expense of homeless
to combat this increasing crime we have set up 'Weed
and tell us of any empty houses you see. Help us to



GREEN LANE, SALISBURY.

Green lane was an example of a succesful land squat that lasted for nearly 100 years - one woman, Gran Saunders was born and died there. When finally taken to court in 1980 the longest surviving resident had been there 17 years.

Green lane started as a gypsy site during the 1880's though towards the end there were more self-styled hippies there than tinkers. The final tally in 1980 was 330 people living in coaches, caravans, shacks, and tipi's.

There is a lot to be learnt from the later experiences of Green lane, especially with regard to the mistakes made and hassles encountered. In many ways it was a 'together' place; the area was kept clean, market gardens established, and a school set up.

Eventually the council made moves to evict people from the site. It turned out that the council wanted to lease the land to the niece of Jacob 6th Earl of Radnor (a local richpig) who 'needed' a straight mile gallop for her riding school, and the only local place with this - Green lane.

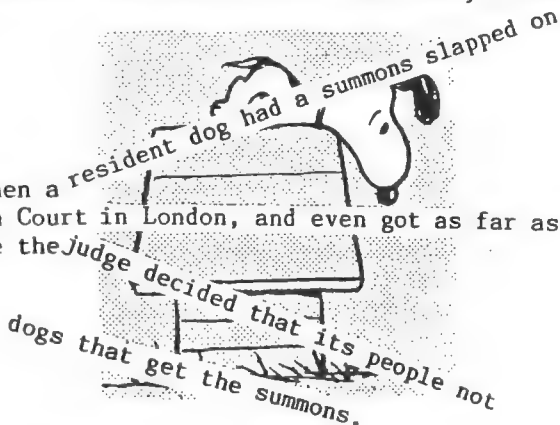
Sanitation was the first means used to harass the homesteaders. Portabogs publically displayed put the council off this angle. Next the council thought of the education the kids were supposedly missing out on by not going to the local state run schools. This tactic didnt work either as the site already had a school - three teachers for sixteen kids, the teaching being rotated regularly.

Then the council took Green lane members to court under a public nuisance order, but no locals were found to stand up in court to back this up.

Next it was illegal births on the site. The presence at births of a resident who was a qualified midwife (although in reality an incompetent headcase) meant that rules and laws were complied with.

All these encounters brought Green lane much publicity which made eviction more difficult. One bloke applied for council accommodation, he asked the council for a field to live on! This even got him into the Daily Express and on Nationwide, BBC (as a 'funny' news item), and flummoxed the council for awhile, but were sorry to say, didnt get him his field.

Another incident was when a resident dog had a summons slapped on him, got taken to the High Court in London, and even got as far as a judge in chambers before the Judge decided that its people not dogs that get the summons.



The sites most vociferous residents eventually managed to get themselves registered as gypsies, which can be a bonus for travellers (see TRAVELLERS page 79), other quieter folk were refused.

It was the Road Traffic Act that finally did it for Green lane; they were officially parked on a road.

The mistakes made during the period before eviction were found, in retrospect, to be firstly; the settlers naivety, its an advantage to know how to play the legal game (at very least your basic rights). Getting in first, like attempting to register as gypsies earlier, may have helped. Secondly, they trusted the various authorities promises.

PEACE CAMPS

The peace camps scattered around the country outside military bases etc are a recent development in the history of land squatting. Below we have a short account of the Molesworth land squat (the planned home for 64 American controlled cruise missiles).

Just after Christmas 1981 three women set up the Molesworth Peace Camp - in contrast to Greenham Common this was called the PEOPLES PEACE CAMP.

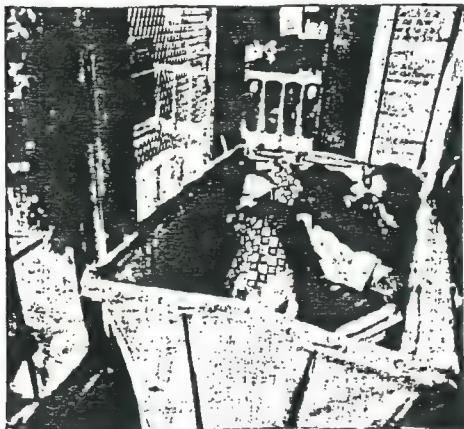
taken from "ideal home", hooligan press,
london

US FACES WINTER WITH RECORD NUMBER OF HOMELESS PEOPLE

As winter weather sets in, officials in cities around the US report record numbers of homeless people seeking shelter and food from hard-pressed local agencies. The officials also report a marked change in the characteristics of the shifting population of the homeless: more women, more children, and younger men, who will typically spend more time unemployed and unable to afford adequate shelter than in the past. So much for "our" glorious economic recovery.

The Massachusetts Committee for Children and Youth found that Boston rents, among other costs, had increased 300% since 1981 without corresponding increases in personal income, leaving 500,000 families in that state at risk of homelessness based on their income.

Connecticut's third-largest city, New Haven, has that state's largest homeless problem, variously attributed to rapidly-increasing rents, a vacancy rate near zero in rental housing, a loss of older rental housing to new development, and a relatively-small shelter system. Last year New Haven had fewer than 40 families in emergency housing at any one time. This October it had 116 families.



A homeless man sleeps in a rubbish container outside a New York store.

In New York City, a record number of homeless men, women, and children are expected. The city's Human Resources Administration expects that the number of single homeless men and women it will have to shelter will grow this winter from 9,000 to 10,000 and that the number of families will grow from 4,000 to 5,000. Meanwhile an undetermined number live in the streets and abandoned buildings.

Officials in Newark, the largest city in New Jersey, estimate that there were 4,000 to 7,000 homeless people last year, with little change this year. In 1984 New Jersey officials set up a program to reduce homelessness, in part by trying to prevent evictions of people who fall behind in rent or mortgage payments. The program helped 1,801 households in its first year and 2,260 in its second.

An Atlanta, Georgia, group estimates that the city has 5,000 homeless people, but housing for only 1800. Many are chronic alcoholics or drug users, or mentally ill who have been turned out of hospitals. But the segment growing fastest is made up of dispossessed women and families. Even those who find housing may be forced out of it. James Beatty, co-ordinator of the Task Force on the Homeless in Atlanta, told of one landlord who, upon learning that a family had been homeless, required an additional security deposit of two months' rent.



Who is a typical shelter resident? "Her husband has lost his job," says Jerry Collins, associate director of the Star of Hope women's shelter in Houston. "He's gotten discouraged, depressed, and even angry to the degree that he's going to abuse her and the children eventually. After he does that, he gets so guilty he just disappears."

In San Diego County, the homeless at any one time are estimated at 5,000 or more, most of them families and women, a 25% increase since 1983. But social workers note that the homeless population turns over about four times a year, meaning that many more than 5,000 a year experience homelessness.

The result of Reagan's boom-town war economy is record dispossession of women, children, and families and record profits to warmongers. It is time for people to take matters into their own hands, time to occupy living spaces and demand utility turn-ons and housing rehabilitation and construction for citizens which will also provide employment.

THANKS TO:

INDUSTRIAL WORKER

I.W.W.
WORLD LABOR
NEWS
INDUSTRIAL WORKERS
OF THE WORLD

★ DEFENDING YOUR CASTLE. ★

Attack from outsiders has always plagued people the likes of us. Excluding burglars and housebreakers of 'unofficial' status we are left with the police, baliffs, and quasi state bodies like the electric, gas, and water boards who can all obtain a magistrates warrant to enter our homes (the last three only have a right of entry if you are suspected of interfering with their supply). Given siege conditions that would come about if you managed to hold off an initial attack, its doubtful if you could hold out for very long. But this doesnt mean you shouldnt bother defending your home. Even an extra minutes delay can give you valuable time in which to burn documents, flush the bog, eat the evidence, or whatever.

The below list is only a brief sketch of methods that can be employed to defend your home - all of which are being used by people in BRITAIN of the 80s.

Any other defences you know of or are using pass onto us or CROWBAR (see Contacts). Incidentally, any method you use for barricading your home for fuck sake **bear**fire in mind, and your possible escape.

ENTRANCES

Out of all the dens we've seen the best defended are bikers club houses. Getting into some of these in a hurry isnt on. From the outside you can tell they are strictly 'no go zones'. Besides steel doors, and bars at the windows, some even have video cameras positioned high up to give a wide span of the road outside.

OK, video cameras are expensive (if you have to buy one), but once bought they are easy to relocate if having to move, and with that attitude they become as much a household item as the kitchen table. Another angle with this idea is to use phoney cameras (like some stores do). You can get these for about £20, but they are only a deterrent, and dont actually work.

DOORS

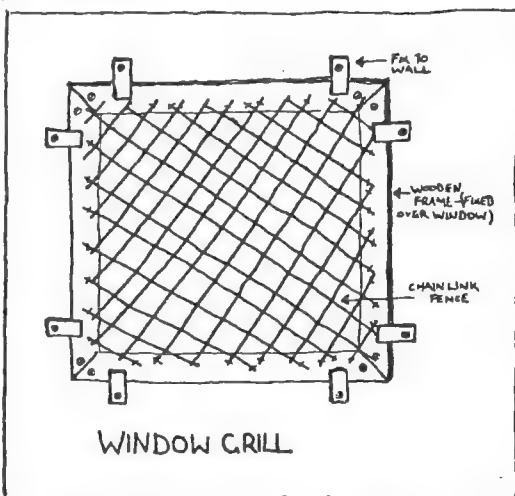
Replace glazed sections of doors with wood (at least $\frac{1}{2}$ plywood), and reinforce the back with 2" x 1" battens.

LOCKS AND BOLTS

If you are going to the trouble of securing your den with locks - do it properly. Dont just use one lock or bolt when two, three or even four will be more effective. Also fixing locks to internal doors isnt a bad idea.

WINDOW OPENINGS

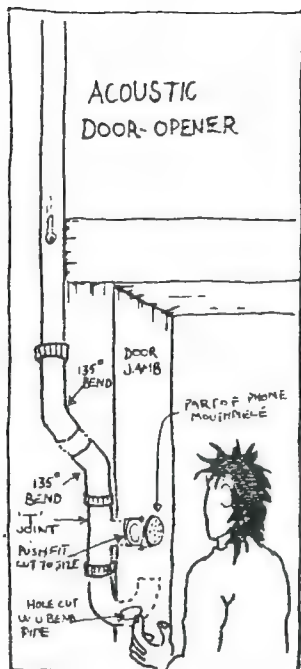
A detachable frame made up of a wooden frame and chain link fencing (see below) are easy to make, give that extra protection, and can be removed easily only from inside.



FURNITURE

Suitably placed wardrobes, cupboards, and other items of weighty furniture can be slid in front of doors and windows. Cupboards and wardrobes left on upper landings can with one shove effectively block stairs and hallways.

Chair backs wedged under door knobs work well. You'll be surprised how hard it is to open a door when its secured like this.



STASH HOLES

Not strictly relating to defending your home, but relevant enough to be included.

Stash holes are well worth getting sussed. We know of some neat indoor ones where the police would never think of looking. All we can say here (without giving too much away) is - look at your home and THINK of all possibilities.

If your stash is smelly and sniffer dogs are likely to be involved with any raid, use lots of clingfilm and plastic to wrap it in. Its also worthwhile using aniseed or as a last resort lemon washing-up liquid to disguise smells.

One neat diversionary tactic is to leave cannabis flavoured incense lying around.

If you can, use outside rather than indoors for safer stashes. A short walk is better than a bust.



0
1
2
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5
6

DIRTY



SQUATTER

WHO, ME-OFFICER?'-FAMOUS STAR TELLS ALL!

HOLY SALVATION

HYPOCRISY

Are you normal,
Never mind the questions;
Is a flower,
A flower
Or a funeral wreath;
Did you feel the bite
Of someones teeth
All the time
Or only some of the time;
Perhaps you made it go away
After a tearful night
When you did pray;
Did you fly so very high
Or swoop so very low
From the fear
That someone else did show-
Can you laugh without exemption
Or cry without exemption.
Are you normal?
Are you normal?



*"What's so wrong or unfair is that
some people should have three or four
houses while others have only two."*

A swoop,
A dive,
The mighty eye
Is all-seeing
And spies upon me,
But my identity
Is armoured with plastic,
So the eye sees
A plastic photograph-
My plastic number,
Such victory for the I.D. card
That shows,
Me and you,
Who I am.

Gossip Inc.

gossip Inc. Needs
 ♀ interested in Gossiping and Working
 with Video. We Gossips are trying
 to document Herstory Melbourne 1986
 (for a start)

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If You
 Want to be a
 Gossip or gossip
 With us or contribute
 in some other way
 Phone: 4800426
 or write care of
 Gossip Inc.
 P.O. box 306
 Clifton Hill
 3068

weaving the
 feminist
 strands
 together

the Original
 Gossips were Wise
 and Highly Respected
 Wymyn who would
 travel from Village to
 Village. communicating
 information.
 We want to
 Resurrect this
 Phenomena but by
 using Video as our
 Vehicle of
 Communication.

The gossips united
 will never be defeated

Privatisation of hospital cleaning services has cost many working class women their jobs. For some women, it will also mean the loss of their homes and their community.

As we go to press, women cleaners at St. Mary's hospital in Paddington are facing eviction from the hostel in which they have lived for between 8 and 22 years.

Most of the women are from Spain, Portugal, Morocco and the Philippines. Many arrived in this country speaking little English and were admitted on the condition that they work in 4-year residential jobs. Working long hours for low wages meant that most of the women had no time, money or education to move elsewhere or get higher paying jobs. Many sent part of their earnings abroad to support their families. They formed a close community which is now threatened with dissolution due to privatisation, despite the fact that half of them are still working at the hospital for the private contractors, Mediclean.

Twenty two of the women have refused to move out of the hostel. Their union GMBATU has occupied the building in support. John Edwards (GMB General Secretary) has written to Norman Fowler demanding that the eviction threat be lifted and that a ministerial guarantee be issued that all ancillary workers with NHS accommodation will not lose their homes if their jobs are privatised.



Women Resist Eviction



The hospital now reportedly wants the hostel to houses nurses. The cleaners have not been offered alternative accommodation elsewhere. They were given 6 months to look for housing on their own, in a rather cynical abdication of responsibility by health officials. According to one member of the GMB the health authority could nominate people to the housing commission for accommodation, but this is generally only done for doctors and nurses, not for non-professional staff. The housing situation being what it is (10,000 people on the waiting list in Westminster), it is unlikely that the women will find suitable housing that they can afford. They certainly will not be able to keep their community together. The cost of hostel accommodation was less than half the cost of the lowest B&B in the area. The women's already low wages are being further cut by the privatisation move and they won't be able to afford £45 p.w B&B rates.

These women were recruited by the government into jobs which gave them little chance to pursue any other course and now they are being dumped by the government in an attempt to cut costs. Members of S. London DAM are trying to get in touch with the women to see if any support action can be set up.

squatters us
to the confest



the hot sun. Poetic? More funs at the Chai joint just around sunset, a communal meal and buskers. At the end of the night most squatters found a new place to sleep in the shelter of the self-management tents.

Thanks to Sydney black Rose bookshop for sharing the spirit

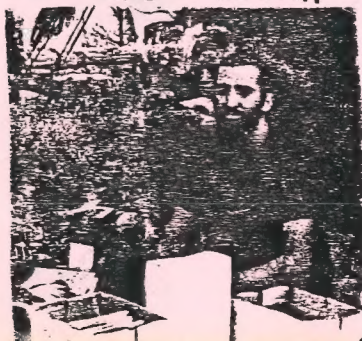
The Confest happened at Daylesford during the long weekend 23rd to 26th. The confests always have several 1000's of people busily getting rebirthed and digging holes for toilets or looking at musos and making patches of soil around fireplaces. The space available does not permit me to write down the entire confest - its dramas and situations, nor could I be bothered so I'll just relate to you what I discovered in the 5 days as a squatter lost and found in the confest. We had 2 workshops and ran a stall. Our banners were

tied onto the earth tent in the self management village and a tarp spread on the grass in front where badges, squat-its and reality attack mags were grabbed up fast [ta for the donaters]. The nights were spent enjoying whatever we could extract from the etherial skydome. Not expecting to be entertained, we mostly entertained ourselves gadding about here in the giant field mouse and now high up on a tower above the heeling village, the moans of rebirthers cast out upon the shores of the void, the leaves on the trees aspiring in

of the occasion and the space available in the village. A result of the gathering at the stall and workshop [quit smoking thru squatting and interstate squatting] was a gadding in touch with movements in Sydney [anarchist collective and even germany and the squatt situation there.

Overall we made the most of what was otherwise an over amped and murky mud monster of a con-fest....&&&&&&&&&by barnei.

Theres WINE at this Stall



Earthing Thru EYE GLASS BARNEY. I.



MEETINGS 4.30
WED

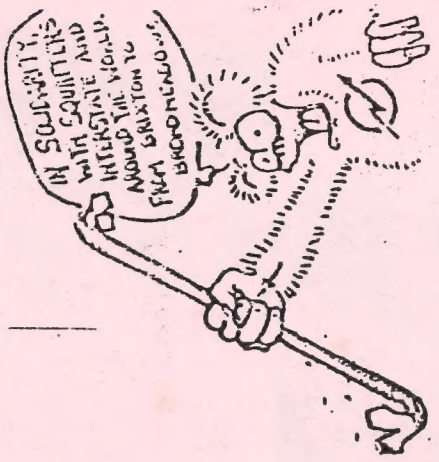
SQUATTERS UNION of Vic.

IF YOU'RE (still -)
SQUATTING, GIVE US
A RING + LET
US KNOW!
(or drop a note!)

THAS IT OVER



our new address is ...



201 ST GEORGES RD